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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/964,562	09/28/2001	Eiji Hirai	040679-1367	2605

22428 7590 06/03/2003

FOLEY AND LARDNER
SUITE 500
3000 K STREET NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20007

EXAMINER

JOYCE, WILLIAM C

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3682

DATE MAILED: 06/03/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

SK

Offic Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/964,562	HIRAI ET AL.	

Examin r	Art Unit	
William C. Joyce	3682	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication app ars on the cover sheet with th correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 March 2003.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-29 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) 23-29 is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-3,6-14 and 17-22 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) 4,5,15 and 16 is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 3.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____.

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

This is the First Office Action in response to the Election filed March 20, 2003 for the above identified patent application.

Election/Restrictions

1. Claims 23-29 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected Group, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in Paper No. 6.

Priority

2. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

- Claim 11, lines 2-3, the limitation "a second traction surface" is not fully understood because the claim does not appear to define a first traction surface.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 1-3, 6, 7, 9-14, 17, 18, and 20-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakano (US Patent 4,955,246) in view of Grell et al. (US Patent 5,670,265).

Nakano discloses a well known CVT having an input disc (40), an output disc (30), and a power roller (52) sandwiched between the input and output discs. The power roller is formed by an input race, an output race, and a plurality of rolling members disposed between the races.

Nakano does not disclose a rolling surface having a nickel-based coat, but it was known in the art to provide a nickel-based coat on rolling surfaces. For example, the prior art to Grell discloses "a method of manufacturing steel components electroplated with zinc-nickel alloy is known" (column 1, lines 14+). Specifically, Grell discloses a roller bearing having zinc-nickel coating on its components, wherein the thickness of the coating is at the most 1.5 μm and the hardness of the coating is at least 650Hv. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the rolling surfaces of the CVT taught by Nakano with the zinc-nickel alloy coating, as taught by Grell, motivation being to provide improved rolling surfaces.

7. Claims 1-3, 8-14, 19-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakano (US Patent 4,955,246) in view of Ward et al. (US Patent 6,318,898).

As described above Nakano discloses a well known CVT having an input disc (40), an output disc (30), and a power roller (52) sandwiched between the input and output discs. The power roller is formed by an input race, an output race, and a plurality of rolling members disposed between the races.

Nakano does not disclose a rolling surface having a nickel-based coat with phosphorous, but it was known in the art to provide a nickel-based coat with phosphorous on rolling surfaces. For example, the prior art to Ward et al. discloses A bearing having a nickel/phosphorous plating layer (68) having a thickness of 6.35 μ m. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the rolling surfaces of the CVT taught by Nakano with the nickel-based coat with phosphorous, as taught by Ward et al, motivation being to provide improved rolling surfaces.

Allowable Subject Matter

8. Claims 4, 5, 15, and 16 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to William C. Joyce whose telephone number is (703) 305-5114. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday 7:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Bucci can be reached on (703) 308-3668. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 305-7687 for regular communications and (703) 305-7687 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1113.


William C. Joyce
May 29, 2003